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CLEAN PACIFIC 2012

The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

CIRCULAR

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TO: SPREP National Focal Points (American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Fiji, France, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Wallies and Futuna)

SUBJECT: PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE NOUMEA, 7 SEPTEMBER, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to attach herewith for your information and perusal a copy of the Communique of the Pacific Environment Ministerial Meeting which was held in Noumea, New Caledonia, 7 September, 2012.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous assistance and support to the work of SPREP.

Sincerely yours,

Kosi Latu
Acting Director General

PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUÉ
Noumea, 7 September, 2012

The 23rd Meeting of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme convened in Noumea, New Caledonia, 4-7 September 2012. The high-level segment was attended by Ministers, Ministerial Representatives and Heads of Delegation from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Fiji, France, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America and Wallis and Futuna.

Ministers, Ministerial Representatives and Heads of Delegation thanked the Administration of New Caledonia for the kind hospitality extended to them during their stay in Noumea.

The Ministers, Ministerial Representatives and Heads of Delegation of the Pacific region responsible for the environment, having met in Noumea, New Caledonia:

1. **NOTED** the importance of the commitments to the environment made by Leaders at the 43rd Pacific Islands Forum and Post-Forum Dialogue in Rarotonga, Cook Islands and, in particular in relation to Rio+20 and the need to merge with the post-2015 development agenda, climate change efforts, and to increase work in relation to invasive species.

2. **WARMLY** welcomed the Government of the United Kingdom as a Member of SPREP.

3. **RECOGNISING** the vital link between the people of the Pacific and the Ocean environment and the inextricable link between the survival of the people and ocean conservation and management, expressed **STRONG SUPPORT** for implementing the Oceanscape Framework and commended the visionary commitments of the governments of the Cook Islands and New Caledonia to establish marine protected areas (MPAs) in their Exclusive Economic Zones with a potentially combined area of 2.5 million km^2; including the plans of SPREP Members to collaborate and mutually support the development and management of their respective MPAs; and **DIRECTED** SPREP to facilitate this collaboration.

4. **ENCOURAGED** the Secretariat to intensify its work with Members and partners and donors to identify innovative financing mechanisms to support conservation and management of biodiversity, commending the innovative approach taken by the government of Kiribati in establishing an endowment fund for the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA).

5. **WELCOMED** preparations towards the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in November 2013, co-hosted by Fiji and SPREP, and urged full participation and support by SPREP Members.

6. **CALLED** on international and regional donors and development partners to support national initiatives and programmes to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts and related disasters through innovative financing mechanisms.

7. **REAFFIRMED** the vital coordinating role of SPREP in the Pacific region in the area of Pacific Islands' climate change adaptation and mitigation, and tasked the Secretariat to work in partnership and collaborate with all international and regional organisations, partners and donors that wish to invest in adaptation to climate change to enable timely, effective and efficient response to Members' climate change priorities as well as timely monitoring and reporting to the SPREP meeting.

8. **RECOGNISED** that renewable energy and alternative energy sources, ranging from waste to biofuels, contribute to energy and economic security and the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and that access to renewable energy sources is vital to the region; and welcomed the announcement by New Zealand to co-host a Renewable Energy Summit with the European Union in April 2013.

9. **ENDORSED** a regional E-waste strategy that will help improve the management of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment in the Pacific. This strategy includes a comprehensive Action Plan that provides a framework for assessment, funding and community based action to manage the future disposal of E-waste in the region.

10. **ENDORSED** the Secretariat's review of the marine spill contingency plan (PacPLAN) which will improve regional marine pollution preparedness, and acknowledged the assistance of Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States to complete this.

11. **NOTED** the outcomes of the Rio+ 20 meeting; **ENDORSED** the coordination of post-Rio+20 activities; and **WELCOMED** the proposal made by New Caledonia to host a meeting in November 2012 dedicated to implementing these recommendations in the Pacific.

12. **DIRECTED** the Secretariat to develop national and regional frameworks for the production of State of the Environment reports in accordance with the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan and noted the contributions of Pacific island members that are already engaging in the process.

13. **ENDORSED** Phase 2 of the EU-funded UNEP African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements Capacity Building Project, and the development of a GEF proposal to build national and regional capacity for state of environment assessment and reporting.

14. **NOTED** the offer by French Polynesia to host a workshop on the environmental consequences of nuclear testing and nuclear pollution in the Pacific to be held in 2013.